BROUGHTON ARCHIPELAGO PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: March 25/03

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Date: Mar 31/03

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Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role is to contribute to the protection of marine ecosystems. Broughton Archipelago Park contributes significantly to the representation of the Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), and the Queen Charlotte Strait *Marine* Ecosection (QCT), all of which are under represented in the protected areas system.

The park protects a diverse and rich marine environment with numerous rare species due to its location at the interface of two major bodies of water (Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait) and habitat offered by forested islands, rocky islets, kelp beds, and complex shorelines. The park provides nesting habitat and is a migration stop and resting area for pelagic and shore birds including red-necked phalaropes, marbled murrelets, bald eagles, great blue herons, auklets, petrels, shearwaters, albatross, alcids, cormorants, waterfowl, shorebirds and oystercatchers. Marine mammal species found in the Broughton Archipelago are representative of the Queen Charlotte Strait, and include northern sea lions, killer whales, humpback whales, gray whales, minke whales, sea otters, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoises, harbour porpoises, and harbour seals. In addition, the park serves as habitat for sockeye, pink and chum salmon, herring, groundfish, Pacific halibut, littleneck and butter clams, cockles, shrimp, prawns, and a variety of other marine invertebrates.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role of Broughton Archipelago Park is to provide a marine recreation experience for boaters traveling the Inside Passage. The park is a wilderness area consisting of a maze of several small islands, numerous islets and adjacent foreshore at the southern extremity of Queen Charlotte Strait, off the west coast of Gilford Island. Kayakers and boaters seek out the park as a destination for ocean kayaking, scuba diving, fishing and cultural heritage appreciation. In addition, there is an opportunity to view the killer whales and other marine mammals that frequent Johnstone Strait and nearby Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve. It plays a significant role in the tourism economy of northern Vancouver Island and will continue to do so as ecotourism develops on the North Island. The park's location in the Inside Passage with its numerous excellent anchorages serves as a stop over area for long-distance boaters heading to the North Coast or Alaska.

The islands in the marine park are undeveloped, but wilderness camping is allowed in numerous locations. Full amenities are available at nearby Echo Bay, and moorage at a yacht club on Berry Island.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role is to protect cultural features. The Kwakiutl people have a vibrant First Nations heritage associated with Broughton Archipelago, and a number of traditional territories overlap in this area indicating its importance as a fishing and gathering site. A diversity of sites and features are found on the islands and are important to both First Nations and European cultures for understanding and appreciating the First Nation history and culture.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of detailed knowledge and awareness of marine ecosystem components and cultural values	➢ Implement an inventory program to fill in knowledge gaps about the natural and cultural values. ➢ Increase off-site interpretation (including website) coupled with other protected areas in the vicinity (i.e. Cormorant Channel and Robson Bight). ➢ Work with First Nations to place boundary signs and other educational signage.
Impact of adjacent forest harvesting, aquaculture nearby and in the park, recreation, ship traffic, commercial harvesting and use, theft of artifacts on natural and cultural values	➢ Work with DFO to minimize impacts from marine harvesting and fish farms on native species, especially pink salmon. ➢ Review forest harvesting plans with Ministry of Forests and forest companies for adjacent areas to assess their impact on park values. ➢ Implement a structured and formal monitoring program to protect cultural, recreation, and natural value sites. ➢ Provide interpretation information to emphasize user ethics, impact of sewage disposal and marine mammal viewing ethics.
Carrying capacity for site for both commercial and private kayakers and resulting conflicts	➢ Work with commercial operators to limit impact on site and between users until such time as a management plan can be prepared. Preparation of a management plan is a high priority.
First Nation relations	➢ Develop a good working relationship with First Nations to protect cultural sites and to reach an understanding of park values and management issues.

Zoning

Wilderness Recreation Zone – covers the entire park to reflect the wilderness character of the park while providing for recreation opportunities. The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites. This zone is characterized by very low use with minimal facility development for user safety and convenience and the protection of the environment. Approved facilities include trails, primitive campsites and shelters.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Broughton Archipelago Park is the third largest contributor out of 16 protected areas (it contributes 14.4% to the overall protected area representation) to the Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which is under represented with only 3.3% of its area protected provincially. East Redondia Island Ecological Reserve (42.8%) and Main Lakes Park (24.5%) are the largest contributors. However, these two protected areas are further south and are significantly different than Broughton Archipelago. Makes a very minimal contribution (0.09%) to the representation of the Queen Charlotte Strait *Terrestrial* Ecosection (QCT), which has only 3.4% of its area protected. Broughton Archipelago is one of only 5 protected areas that contribute to its representation. Broughton Archipelago Park is the largest contributor (with 53.8%) out of 16 protected areas to the representation of the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which has only 3.7% protected provincially. It is also the largest contributor (with 66.2%) out of only 4 protected areas to the representation of the Queen Charlotte Strait *Marine* Ecosection (QCT), which has only 3.3% of its area protected.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Makes a small contribution of 1.5% to the representation of CWHvm1, which has 7% protected
Special Features	☒	Clam terraces, rocky islets, excellent marine habitat for a diversity of rare species
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	*Red-listed species:* northern abalone, marbled murrelet, northern sea lion, sea otter, killer whale (both the northeast Pacific resident population and the west coast transient population). *Blue-listed species*: red-necked phalarope, great blue heron, humpback whale, gray whale, and harbour porpoise. COSEWIC-listed threatened northern abalone. *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S4):* black oystercatcher, rhinocerous auklet, harlequin duck, pelagic cormorant, bald eagle, Dall's porpoise, and sockeye salmon.

		Pink salmon spawning populations in the Broughton Archipelago are currently in a severe state of decline, having gone from 3.62 million fish in 2000 to 147,000 fish returning in 2002.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Marine mammal research, impacts of aquaculture and recreation on natural values

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Popular destination for kayaking and small boats; wildlife viewing and interpretive tours
travel corridor	☒	Part of Inside Passage corridor for kayakers, power boaters, cruise ships
local recreation	☒	Boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing
Special Opportunities	☒	SCUBA diving and whale watching
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Great potential for on and offsite interpretation of First Nation culture and history, whales and other marine mammals

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Pre and post-contact land use patterns
Special Feature	☒	Large number of archaeological, spiritual, burial and other undocumented sites; pictographs; 38 shell midden deposits associated with semi-permanent village sites, fortified refuge sites and short term seasonal campsites; stone canoe run; culturally modified trees; fish traps; longest occupied village site in BC (Insect Island)

Other Management Considerations

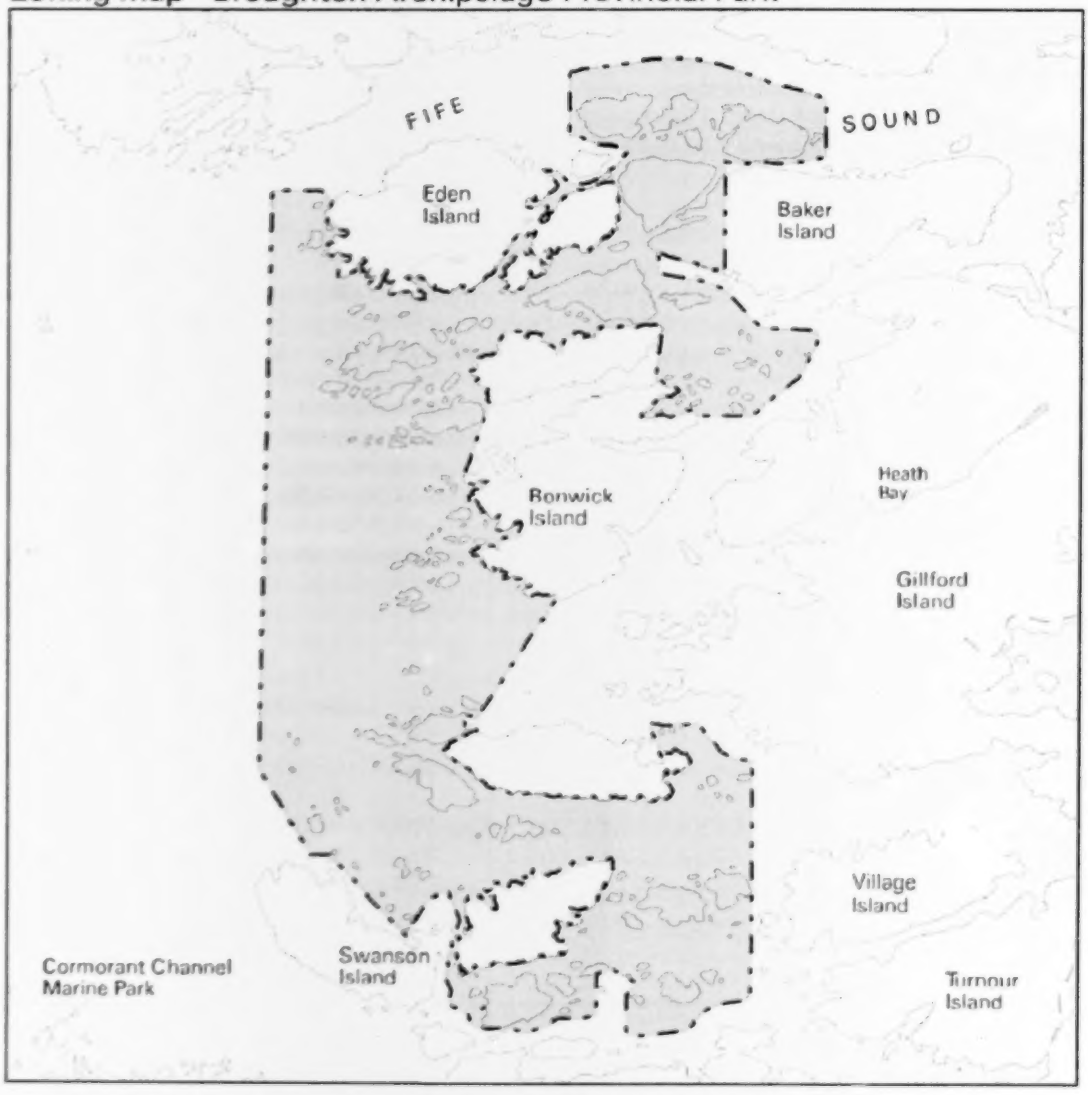
Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas and anchorages along the Inside Passage
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	The natural values are threatened by commercial marine harvesting, aquaculture, logging on adjacent islands, possible overuse by commercial and non-commercial recreation use,

		and oil spills. The cultural values are at risk to recreational use, adjacent forest harvesting, fish farms, and theft of artifacts. The recreational values are vulnerable to levels of use, fish farms, and industrial development.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Possible addition to park as a result of Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan; Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 11,679 hectares (1,645 ha upland; 10,034 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: September 16, 1992

Zoning Map - Broughton Archipelago Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Wilderness Recreation
Protected Area Boundary

0 2
km

Produced in Apr 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Decision Support Services

This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.